

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00
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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9743
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1099

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, CE

SUBJ: US TRSB MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM AND ICAO ALL-WEATHER
OPERATIONS DIVISIONAL MEETING, MONTREAL, APRIL 4-12, 1978

REF: 77 STATE 304194

1. EMBOFF MET MARCH 6 AND 8 WITH MR. D.H.S. ATHULATHMUDALI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION FOR AERONAUTICAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS. MR. ATHULATHMUDALI HAS BEEN ACTING DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION SINCE THE DEATH OF NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO. HE STATED THAT HE EXPECTS TO LEAD THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA (GSL) DELEGATION AT ICAO ALL WEATHER OPERATIONS (AWO) DIVISIONAL MEETING AT MONTREAL APRIL 4-12.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, MR. ATHULATHMUDALI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY UK REPRESENTATIVES SEEKING GSL SUPPORT AT MONTREAL FOR U.K. DOPPLER MLS.

3. AFTER STATING THAT HE HAD CAREFULLY STUDIED AWOP VI REPORT, TRSB DATA AND DATA ON U.K. DOPPLER MLS, MR. ATHULATHMUDALI SAID THAT HE WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY DETERMINING WHICH
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OF THE TWO SYSTEMS WAS SUPERIOR. "THE PROBLEM," HE STATED, "IS THAT NO ONE, INCLUDING THE AWOP, WILL SAY WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE OTHER SYSTEMS. CAN YOU TELL ME THE WEAKNESSES OF THE DOPPLER MLS?"

4. MR. ATHULATHMUDALI WAS AWARE OF THE CONTROVERSY DISCUSSED IN PARAGRAPH 5B REFTEL. HE STATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT ADDITIONAL

INFORMATION OF SIMILAR NATURE, I.E. CONCERNING EQUIPMENT SHORTCOMINGS, WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HIM IN DECIDING WHICH SYSTEM HE SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE GSL SUPPORT. TO THIS, EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT EMBASSY INTENTION WAS TO ENSURE GSL FAMILIARITY WITH OUR CANDIDATE SYSTEM AND ITS ADVANTAGES AND NOT TO RUN DOWN NOR CONDEMN COMPETITIVE SYSTEMS. HIS REACTION SUGGESTED THAT HE MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED SIMILAR EXCHANGE WITH U.K. REPRESENTATIVES.

5. MEEINT ENDED WITH EMBOFF OFFERING TO TRANSMIT TO DEPARTMENT ANY QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION GSL MIGHT POSE. THE ACTING DIRECTOR STATED THAT HE WOULD REVIEW THE DATA AGAIN AND CONTACT EMBSSY IF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OCCURRED TOTJLIM.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION SUCH AS THAT DISCUSSED PARA 5B REFTEL WHICH CONCERNS DISADVANTAGES OF DOPPLER MLS WHICH CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MR. ATHULATHMUDALI. ALSO, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTOR IF DEPARTMENT COULD EXPAND ON OR SEND ADDITIONAL DATA TO SUPPORT STATEMENTS RE TRSB ADVANTAGES LISTED PARA 6 REFTEL.
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